Remarks

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated March 10, 2008. Although Applicant believes all claims are allowable without amendment, to advance prosecution Applicant has made clarifying amendments to independent Claims 1, 16, and 31. At least certain of these amendments are not considered narrowing, and none is considered necessary for patentability. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

I. The Objections should be Withdrawn

The Examiner objects to the amended term "computer-readable medium" in Claims 16-30 as lacking antecedent basis in the Specification. It is not entirely clear whether the Examiner objects to the Specification, claims, or both. In any event, Applicant respectfully submits that the Specification provides adequate disclosure to support the term "computer-readable medium."

The claim or claims must conform to the invention as set forth in the remainder of the specification and the terms and phrases used in the claims must find clear support or antecedent basis in the description so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description. 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1). The meaning of every term used in any of the claims should be apparent from the descriptive portion of the specification with clear disclosure as to its import. M.P.E.P. ch. 608.01(o).

While the particular term "computer-readable medium" may not be explicitly recited in Applicant's Specification, its meaning would be abundantly clear to one of ordinary skill in the art, both based on the ordinary meaning of the term itself and Applicant's Specification. Applicant's Specification is replete with discussion of computers, computer systems, and software (including, for example, agents and objects). One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that software is generally embodied on a computer-readable medium. These descriptions provide ample antecedent basis for the term "computer-readable medium," as recited in independent Claim 16.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the Specification provides antecedent basis for the term "computer-readable medium" in Claims 16-30 and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections to these claims.

II.   The Claims are Allowable over *Ivanov*

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. US 2004/0215604 by Ivanov ("*Ivanov*").[1] Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and discusses independent Claim 1 as an example.

"A claim is anticipated only if *each and every element as set forth in the claim* is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added); M.P.E.P. ch. 2131. In addition, "[t]he elements *must be arranged as required by the claim*." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989); *In re Bond*, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (emphasis added); M.P.E.P. ch. 2131. As illustrated below, it does not appear that *Ivanov* discloses, either expressly or inherently, each and every limitation recited in Claim 1, as amended.

Applicant reiterates the deficiencies of *Ivanov* discussed in the previous Response mailed December 7, 2007. To avoid burdening the record, Applicant does not duplicate those arguments in this Response. Additionally, the cited portions of *Ivanov* do not appear to disclose, teach, or suggest at least the following limitations recited in Claim 1, as amended:

- dynamically selecting at least a portion of a plurality of agent components based on the client request and the environment characteristics, the at least a portion of the plurality of agent components being selected using a relational knowledgebase that comprises a properties table of properties for dynamic agent component selection and an actions table of actions for processing; and

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[1] Applicant believes he could antedate *Ivanov* based at least on Applicant's date of conception prior to April 24, 2003 (the filing date of *Ivanov*) and subsequent diligence up to the September 9, 2003 filing date of the Application. While Applicant has chosen not to do so in the present Response due to the clear distinctions between Applicant's independent claims and *Ivanov*, Applicant reserves the right to antedate *Ivanov* at a later time, if appropriate. By not antedating *Ivanov* at this time, Applicant does not concede that *Ivanov* qualifies as prior art.

- processing the client request using the selected agent components and according to one or more actions of the actions table that are planned and scheduled.

For example, the cited portions of *Ivanov* fail to disclose, teach, or suggest "dynamically selecting at least a portion of a plurality of agent components based on the client request and the environment characteristics, the at least a portion of the plurality of agent components being selected using a relational knowledgebase that comprises a properties table of properties for dynamic agent component selection and an actions table of actions for processing," as recited in Claim 1 as amended.

As allegedly disclosing "dynamically selecting at least a portion of a plurality of agent components based on the client request and the environment characteristics," as recited in Claim 1 prior to the amendments provided in this Response, the Examiner now cites Figures 3 and 4 and ¶¶ [0042] and [0046] of *Ivanov*. (Final Office Action at 4) The cited portions of *Ivanov* state the following:

> [0042] The query command 314 submits a query to the LOQS 320. At the LOQS 320, the data source adaptor establishes a connection to a target data source 306, 308. If the target data source 306, 308 is the WCS data source 306, the data source adapter 326 uses data source adapters (not shown) of the WCS for establishing a connection and querying the WCS data source 306. If the target data source 306,308 is the local data source 308, connections details for the data source 306,308 are provided by the query command 314 to the data source adapter 326, for establishing the required connection and querying the data source 306, 308. In the present embodiment, the data source adapter 326 uses Java Database Connectors (JDBC) for connecting to and querying the data sources 306, 308.

(*Ivanov* at 4:[0042])

> [0046] The query command 314 sends 405 an execute query command 314 to the query processor 322, which begins by requesting 406 a target data source 306, 308 from the query command 314. If the query command 314 requires a custom data source adapter 326, it communicates 407 the details required for the connection to the data source adapter Oct. 28, 2004 326. If a default data source adaptor is to be used, the query processor 322 communicates 408 this information to the data source adaptor.

(*Ivanov* at 4:[0046])

At least these cited portions do not appear to disclose, teach, or suggest any dynamic selection of agent components based on the client request and the environment characteristics, the agent components being selected using a relational knowledgebase that comprises a properties table of properties for dynamic agent component selection and an actions table of actions for processing, as recited in Claim 1 as amended. For example, it appears that the Examiner is attempting to equate the data source adapters disclosed in *Ivanov* with the agent components recited in Claim 1. Even assuming for the sake of argument only that this equation is proper (a point which Applicant does not address in this Response), there does not appear to be any disclosure, teaching, or suggestion in the cited portions of *Ivanov* that the data source adapters are dynamically selected using a relational knowledgebase that comprises a properties table of properties for dynamic agent component selection and an actions table of actions for processing, as recited in Claim 1 as amended.

As another example, at least because *Ivanov* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "dynamically selecting at least a portion of a plurality of agent components based on the client request and the environment characteristics, the at least a portion of the plurality of agent components being selected using a relational knowledgebase that comprises a properties table of properties for dynamic agent component selection and an actions table of actions for processing," as recited in Claim 1 as amended, *Ivanov* necessarily fails to disclose, teach, or suggest "processing the client request using the selected agent components," as recited in Claim 1. Even more clearly, the cited portions fail to disclose, teach, or suggest "processing the client request using the selected agent components and according to one or more actions of the actions table [of the relational knowledgebase] that are planned and scheduled," as recited in Claim 1 as amended.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claim 1 and its dependent claims. For at least certain analogous reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 16 and 31 and their dependent claims.

III.   <u>No Waiver</u>

All of Applicant's arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Applicant has merely discussed example distinctions from the references cited by the Examiner. Other distinctions may exist, and Applicant reserves the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a later Response or on Appeal, if appropriate. By not responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner's additional statements. The example distinctions discussed by Applicant are sufficient to overcome the Examiner's rejections.
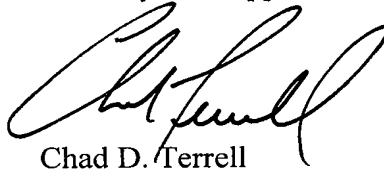
<u>Conclusion</u>

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Chad D. Terrell, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6813.

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-0765 of Electronic Data Systems Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

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